

Tate Reeves

Jonathon Tate Reeves (born June 5, 1974) is an American politician serving as the 65th and current governor of Mississippi since 2020. A member of the Republican Party, he was the 53rd Mississippi State Treasurer from 2004 to 2012 and the 32nd lieutenant governor of Mississippi from 2012 to 2020.^[2] At age 29, he was the youngest state treasurer in the nation when elected in 2003 and the first Republican to hold the office in Mississippi.^[3] He was the Republican nominee for governor of Mississippi in the 2019 election^{[4][5]} and defeated the Democratic nominee, Attorney General Jim Hood.^[6]

Contents

Background

[Controversy](#)

Early career

[Mississippi state treasurer \(2004–2012\)](#)

[Lieutenant governor of Mississippi \(2012–2020\)](#)

Governor of Mississippi

[Coronavirus pandemic](#)

[Mississippi flag removal](#)

Electoral history

References

External links

Background

A native of Rankin County, Mississippi, Reeves graduated in 1992 from [Florence High School](#) in [Florence](#).^[7] He is an honors graduate of [Millsaps College](#) in Jackson, where he earned a bachelor's degree in economics.^[8] He played one year as a point guard for the Millsaps Majors basketball team and was a member of [Kappa Alpha Order](#). Reeves remains involved with Millsaps by serving as a member of the investment policy board for the General Louis Wilson Fund and a member the Advisory Committee of the Else School of Management.^[9]

Controversy

Tate Reeves



65th Governor of Mississippi

[Incumbent](#)

Assumed office

January 14, 2020

Lieutenant [Delbert Hosemann](#)

Preceded by [Phil Bryant](#)

32nd Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi

In office

January 10, 2012 – January 14, 2020

Governor [Phil Bryant](#)

Preceded by [Phil Bryant](#)

Succeeded by [Delbert Hosemann](#)

53rd Treasurer of Mississippi

In office

January 13, 2004 – January 10, 2012

Governor [Haley Barbour](#)

Preceded by [Peyton Prosperi](#)

Succeeded by [Lynn Fitch](#)

Personal details

Born [Jonathon Tate Reeves](#)

Reeves's Millsaps College fraternity, Kappa Alpha, was known for racist activities, including using racial epithets and hosting Confederate-themed dances.^[10] Reeves became embroiled in controversy when yearbook photos surfaced showing fraternity members in blackface and Confederate uniforms, but it is unclear whether Reeves was involved.^{[11][12]}

June 5, 1974
Florence, Mississippi,
U.S.

Political party	Republican
Spouse(s)	Elee Williams (m. 2001) ^[1]
Children	3
Residence	Governor's Mansion
Education	Millsaps College (BA)
Website	Government website (h ttps://www.ms.gov/nod e/73)

Early career

After Millsaps, Reeves pursued a career in banking and finance in Jackson, where he became assistant vice president for AmSouth, formerly the Deposit Guaranty National Bank, and served as a senior investment analyst.^[13] In 2000, Reeves became an investment officer for Trustmark National Bank in Jackson.

Reeves holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation and is a member of the CFA Society of Mississippi and the CFA Institute, an investment industry organization. In 1996, he was the recipient of the Mississippi Society of Financial Analysts Award.

Mississippi state treasurer (2004–2012)

Reeves entered the 2003 GOP primary election and faced former transportation commissioner Wayne Burkes of Brandon and State Representative Andrew Ketchings of Natchez. Reeves ran strongly in GOP strongholds, including Lamar, DeSoto, and Rankin counties. In the three-candidate primary, Reeves led with 49% of the vote,^[14] and routed Burkes in the primary runoff.^[15] In the general election, Reeves defeated Democratic nominee Gary Anderson, the state director of finance and administration, 52% to 48%.^[16]

Unopposed in the GOP primary, Reeves's only Democratic opposition in the 2007 general election was perennial candidate Shawn O'Hara. Reeves was reelected with 61% of the vote.

Lieutenant governor of Mississippi (2012–2020)

Reeves served as lieutenant governor from 2012 to 2020.

In February 2011, Reeves officially launched a campaign for lieutenant governor^[17] and held a fundraising lead over his primary opponent, Mississippi State Senate President Pro Tempore Billy Hewes of Gulfport. A May 2011 poll of likely Republican voters showed Reeves with a 51%–18% lead over Hewes.^[18] On August 2, 2011, Reeves defeated Hewes. On November 8, he was elected lieutenant governor, succeeding Phil Bryant, who was elected to his first term as governor.^[19]

Reeves won reelection as lieutenant governor on November 3, 2015, defeating three opponents, including state Senator Timothy L. Johnson, a Republican-turned-Democrat.^[20] Newspaper reporting on the misuse of statewide public official's campaign funds indicated that Reeves did not misuse these funds. Non-election year expenses were directed toward campaign-related items such as computer databases or political travel.^[21]

Governor of Mississippi

Reeves ran for governor of Mississippi in the 2019 election.^[4] He opposed Medicaid expansion, which he called "Obamacare expansion." In the Republican primary, he and Bill Waller Jr. finished in first and second place, respectively. Because no candidate won a majority of the total vote, Reeves and Waller proceeded to a runoff election on August 27, which Reeves won.^{[22][5]}

Reeves was sworn in as governor on January 14, 2020.^[23]

Coronavirus pandemic

In the midst of the acceleration of the COVID-19 pandemic, Reeves overrode local leaders' decisions to order people to stay at home, instead telling Mississippians get back to "life as usual" and deeming places like bars, dine-in restaurants and churches "essential services".^[24] He also refused to close down beaches.^[25] Reeves refused to announce stay-at-home orders, telling people to trust in the "power of prayer".^[25] The decision was widely condemned.^[24] Asked in late March 2020 why China could impose a lockdown but Mississippi could not, Reeves answered, "Mississippi's never going to be China. Mississippi's never going to be North Korea."^[25] Reeves implemented a "stay-at-home" order on April 3.^[26] In late April, he allowed some retail businesses to reopen again.^[27] At the same time, Mississippi had its largest spike of coronavirus deaths and cases.^[27]

Mississippi flag removal

In June 2020, during the George Floyd protests, debate arose about whether to change the Flag of Mississippi because it contained the Confederate insignia in the top left. Reeves supported changing the flag by referendum, but said that if the Mississippi Legislature passed a bill to retire the flag without a referendum, he would sign it.^{[28][29]} On June 28, the legislature voted to change the flag, 91 to 23 in the House and 37 to 14 in the Senate.^[30] Reeves signed the legislation two days later, removing the last state flag to display the Confederate symbol.^[31]

Electoral history

Mississippi Treasurer Republican Primary Election, 2003			
Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	Tate Reeves	80,770	48.48
Republican	Wayne Burkes	51,745	31.06
Republican	Andrew Ketchings	33,795	20.28
Republican	Write-ins	311	0.19

Mississippi Treasurer Republican Primary Election Runoff, 2003			
Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	Tate Reeves	49,466	72.16
Republican	Wayne Burkes	19,047	27.78
Republican	Write-ins	39	0.06

Mississippi Treasurer Election, 2003

Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	Tate Reeves	447,860	51.80
Democratic	Gary Anderson	403,307	46.64
Reform	Lee Dilworth	13,507	1.56

Mississippi Treasurer Election, 2007

Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	Tate Reeves (inc.)	436,833	60.53
Democratic	Shawn O'Hara	284,789	39.47

Mississippi Lieutenant Governor Republican Primary Election, 2011

Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	Tate Reeves	162,857	56.89
Republican	Billy Hewes	123,389	43.11

Mississippi Lieutenant Governor Election, 2011

Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	Tate Reeves	644,205	80.35
Reform	Tracella Lou O'Hara	157,547	19.65

Mississippi Lieutenant Governor Republican Primary Election, 2015

Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	Tate Reeves (inc.)	225,192	82.50
Republican	Alisha Nelson McElhenney	47,760	17.50

Mississippi Lieutenant Governor Election, 2015

Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	Tate Reeves (inc.)	429,990	60.45
Democratic	Tim Johnson	255,657	35.94
Libertarian	Ron Williams	16,226	2.28
Reform	Rosa Williams	9,410	1.32

Mississippi Governor Republican Primary Election, 2019

Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	Tate Reeves	182,979	48.9
Republican	Bill Waller Jr.	124,707	33.3
Republican	Robert Foster	66,441	17.8

Mississippi Governor Republican Primary Election Runoff, 2019			
Party	Candidate	Votes	%
Republican	Tate Reeves	176,251	54.28
Republican	Bill Waller Jr.	148,471	45.72

Mississippi gubernatorial election, 2019 ^[32]					
Party		Candidate	Votes	%	±
	Republican	Tate Reeves	443,063	52.26	-14.12%
	Democratic	Jim Hood	394,177	46.49	+14.24%
	Independent	David Singletary	8,145	0.96	N/A
	Constitution	Bob Hickingbottom	2,495	0.29	N/A
Total votes			847,880	100%	
	Republican hold				

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External links

Media related to Tate Reeves at Wikimedia Commons

- Official website (<https://www.tatereeves.com/>)
- Appearances (<https://www.c-span.org/person/?tatereeves>) on C-SPAN

Political offices		
Preceded by Peyton Prosperi	Treasurer of Mississippi 2004–2012	Succeeded by Lynn Fitch
Preceded by Phil Bryant	Lieutenant Governor of Mississippi 2012–2020	Succeeded by Delbert Hosemann
	Governor of Mississippi 2020–present	Incumbent
Party political offices		
Preceded by Phil Bryant	Republican nominee for Governor of Mississippi 2019	Most recent
U.S. order of precedence (ceremonial)		
Preceded by Mike Pence <i>as Vice President</i>	Order of Precedence of the United States Within Mississippi	Succeeded by Mayor of city in which event is held
		Succeeded by Otherwise Nancy Pelosi <i>as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives</i>
Preceded by Eric Holcomb <i>as Governor of Indiana</i>	Order of Precedence of the United States Outside Mississippi	Succeeded by J. B. Pritzker <i>as Governor of Illinois</i>

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